
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE GOVERNOR, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES, TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A TREE PLANTING PROGRAM.

1 WHEREAS, Act 15, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, establishes a
2 goal of achieving carbon neutrality in the State by 2045; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the benefits of planting trees in mass
5 reforestation efforts and urban landscaping include carbon
6 sequestration; nutrient cycling; watershed filtration; enhanced
7 groundwater recharge; diminished water loss from evaporation and
8 transpiration; reduced erosion, runoff, and airborne pollution;
9 nitrogen and phosphorous leaching removal; flood control; urban
10 heat island effect mitigation; wildlife habitat preservation;
11 increased shade; and the creation and expansion of recreational
12 and culturally important areas; and
13

14 WHEREAS, Hawaii has lost nearly half of its native forest
15 cover since western contact, and forests continue to be reduced
16 by invasive species and wildfires; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the lei of green, a plan to link Honolulu's green
19 parks, open space, recreation areas, and greenways mauka to
20 makai along the shoreline, interconnected with tree-lined
21 pedestrian paths for shade and climate control, was promoted by
22 the Hawaii Chapter of the American Society of Landscape
23 Architects in 1999 and incorporated as a guiding principle in
24 the Kakaako Makai Master Plan by the Hawaii Community
25 Development Authority in 2011; and
26

27 WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for coordination among
28 the respective state and city agencies and levels of government
29 to ensure that long-intended and continued extension of the lei
30 of green as an interconnected system; now, therefore,
31



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
2 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
3 Representatives concurring, that the Governor, in coordination
4 with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, assisted by
5 the Office of Planning, is urged to establish and implement a
6 tree planting program that provides for the planting in Hawaii
7 of at least one million native trees per year over the next four
8 years; and
9

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as part of the tree planting
11 program, the State and the City and County of Honolulu are urged
12 to work in partnership to complete the lei of green from Diamond
13 Head to Aloha Tower as the working model for island- and state-
14 wide expansion; and
15

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
17 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
18 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Director
19 of the Office of Planning, and Mayor of the City and County of
20 Honolulu.
21

